



MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

ISSUED 9/1/22

# SLOW STREETS PROGRAM

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### HOW DO SPEED HUMPS AFFECT THE PLOWING OF STREETS IN THE WINTER?

The City installed speed humps in various Park roadways for a pilot program in 2019 before beginning installations on residential streets, and there has been no issues with plowing over the speed humps. In addition, the City began installing speed humps on residential streets in 2021 and have not observed any issues with plowing over speed humps as the speed humps are designed for the plows to gradually drive over the humps without having to lift their plow blade.

### WHAT STREETS WERE USED FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM?

DPW used 4 City Parks as a pilot (Cazenovia, Delaware, Riverside and MLK) and determined the Cazenovia Park design as the most effective. As a next step starting in 2021, DPW first installed at least one speed hump zone in each of the nine Council Districts and now continue to install speed humps Citywide.

### HOW DO SPEED HUMPS IMPACT ON-STREET PARKING?

The speed humps are designed to not negatively impact any legal parking spaces. There will be a gradual slope change, but it will not remove any parking spaces.

### WHAT IS INVOLVED WITH ADDING SPEED HUMPS? HOW LONG WILL OUR STREET BE BLOCKED OFF TO TRAFFIC?

Speed humps generally take 1-3 days to install due to multiple installation operations (signage, milling, and final paving); however, the closures at the speed hump will be short in duration (hours) during milling and final paving. If necessary, block closures are typically posted, and local traffic is accommodated.

### IF OUR WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD DOESN'T WANT SPEED HUMPS, WILL YOU INSTALL THEM JUST ON THE STREETS THAT DO WANT THEM?

DPW will consider installation of speed humps on individual streets. However, residents in the neighborhood may be asked to sign a statement indicating their awareness that speed humps on one street may lead to increased diverted traffic on neighboring streets that do not have speed humps.

### ALONG WITH THE SPEED HUMPS, WHAT SIGNAGE IS INSTALLED TO ALERT DRIVERS ABOUT THEM?

There is an advanced warning sign with the 15 MPH speed limit warning at the start of each neighborhood zone with speed humps. In addition, each speed hump location includes a sign adjacent with the language "Speed Hump" to alert drivers. Photos of an installed speed hump with signage are on page 3.

### MY STREET NEEDS REPAVING AND POTHOLES NEED FIXING. CAN YOU DO THAT AT THE SAME TIME?

Funding for paving and roadway repairs is separate from the Slow Streets program and may not be immediately available for your street. DPW does not want to delay installations of speed humps, as many residents are eager for traffic calming. However, the installation of speed humps does not prevent DPW's pavement maintenance program (Citywide paving projects) from resurfacing roadways and other agencies from making necessary roadway repairs.

## **WE KNOW THAT SPEED HUMPS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED ON CERTAIN BUFFALO STREETS. DO YOU HAVE ANY EARLY DATA ABOUT THEIR EFFECTIVENESS?**

The Program is still too early to have a large enough data to confirm the effectiveness, but we have heard a lot of positive feedback from residents after installation. Based on ITE/FHWA traffic calming fact sheet, *Average speeds between humps reduced between 20 and 25 percent.*<sup>1</sup> We will be continuing to monitor before and after data to build on the data set.

## **I DO NOT LIKE SPEED HUMPS.**

The Slow Streets Program is meant to be neighborhood driven. The City initiated the program due to complaints all across the City of excessive speed on residential streets. Neighborhoods submitted applications formally requesting traffic calming and the City further surveyed the residents on the streets where the speed humps are located. DPW has designed and installed the speed humps based on best practices across the country and we are confident that they will provide a safe and effective solution to excessive speed on residential streets.

## **HOW DO SPEED HUMPS AFFECT EMERGENCY RESPONSE?**

DPW met with BPD and BFD prior to piloting permanent speed humps in 2019 to discuss the design of the speed humps as it relates to emergency response. Speed hump design was formulated using best practices from across the US. The best practices have been formulated to accommodate emergency response. DPW has an open line of communication with BPD and BFD so that any issues that are had with meeting emergency response time standards can be addressed.

## **COULD TEMPORARY SPEED HUMPS JUST BE INSTALLED FOR A TRIAL RUN?**

Installing temporary speed humps is actually cost prohibitive. In addition, temporary speed humps pose maintenance and staff capacity challenges.

## **HOW IS SPEED HUMP LOCATION DETERMINED ON A GIVEN STREET?**

Typically, speed humps are spaced about 200 feet from an intersection and then about every 250 to 500 feet, avoiding existing driveways and utility covers. The distance between speed humps is designed to keep cars from accelerating past 20-30 miles per hour.

## **WHAT IF I DON'T WANT A SPEED HUMP IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE?**

The proposed speed hump locations will be marked out prior to installation. Residents will have a chance to indicate if they would like the speed hump shifted and DPW will review if the request can be accommodated within the design constraints. If speed humps are installed but end up posing a problem, the neighborhood can make a formal request to remove the speed humps and DPW will review the inquiry.

## **DO SPEED HUMPS AFFECT PROPERTY VALUE?**

DPW has not seen data to indicate speed humps negatively affect property value.

## **HOW DO SPEED HUMPS IMPACT BIKE RIDING?**

From the subject research, there is not a negative impact to bicyclists. The speed humps have a gradual slope to allow bicyclists to ride over the hump.

## **WHEN YOU INSTALL SPEED HUMPS, DO THEY CREATE NOISE?**

The speed humps have a gradual slope; therefore, people do not need to brake hard. We have not received any complaints about noise in neighborhoods where we have installed speed humps.

## **WHAT MAINTENANCE IS REQUIRED FOR SPEED HUMPS?**

Speed humps can be maintained as part of regular street maintenance.

<sup>1</sup> [Traffic Calming Fact Sheets - Speed Hump \(ite.org\)](https://www.ite.org/docs/default-source/traffic-calming/fact-sheets/speed-hump.pdf)

## ADVANCE WARNING SIGN BEFORE FIRST SPEED HUMP



## SPEED HUMP WITH PAVEMENT MARKING AND SIGN; CAR IS ABLE TO PARK ON SPEED HUMP

